S JS 44 (Rev. 12/07) (cand rev 1-16-08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
Amarjit Singh				Emilio T. Gonzalez; USCIS; Gerard Heinauer; Michael Chertoff; DHS; Michael B. Mukasey			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Alameda (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Nam	ne, Address, and Telephone	Number)		Attorneys (If Known)			
Robert B. Jobe, Katherine M. Lewis Law Office of Robert B. Jobe 550 Kearny Street, Ste. 200, SF CA 94108 415-956-5513				United States 450 Golden C San Francisco	ate Ave	, 9th Fl.	
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				ITIZENSHIP ((For Diversity Ca	ses Only)		S (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
1 U.S. Government 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)			Cit	tizen of This State	PTF	DEF 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In	
U.S. Government Defendant U.S. Government Defendant Ouversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)				tizen of Another State		·	Another State
				izen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	3 Foreign Nation	, [6 [6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		···			737 1 V PT V		OMYTHIN ON LONDING
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare	550 Civil Rights	JURY LUTY— actice pury — bility rsonal let PERTY ding nal mage lity CR NS Vacate : ty & Other ition	FORFEITURE/PI 610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & 625 Drug Related of Property 2 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Sta Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. 30 Labor/Mgmt. 40 Disclosure 740 Railway Labo 790 Other Labor I 791 Empl. Ret. In Security Act IMMIGRAT 462 Naturalization A 463 Habeas Corpu Alien Detains 465 Other Immigr Actions	Drug Seizure 11 USC 881 andards Relations Reporting Act or Act ditigation c.	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 (g)) 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act
■ 1 Original □ 2 Remo	_	nded from late Court	4 Reinsta Reope	ited or 5 ano	sferred fro ther distri- cify)		Appeal to District 7 Judge from Magistrate Judgment
VL CAUSE OF ACTION	5 USC 702	eause:	you are fi	ling (Do not cite j	urisdictio	onal statutes unless dive	
VII. REQUESTED IN ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complete COMPLAINT: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ■ No							
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	"NOTICE OF RI	ELATED CASE".	Singh	v. Gonzalez et al	., No. C	08-00273 CRB	
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE		(<u> </u> ≠		FRANCISCO/OA	KLANI	O □ SAN JOSE	;
DATE SIGNATURE OF RECORD 2/20/08							

Robert B. Jobe (Cal. State Bar #133089) 1 | Katherine M. Lewis (Cal. State Bar #247258) LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT B. JOBE 2 550 Kearny Street, Ste. 200 San Francisco, CA 94108 3 (415) 956-5513 (415) 840-0308 Tel: Fax: 4 Email: bob@jobelaw.com E-filing 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff. 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 7 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8 9 AMARJIT SINGH, No. 10 Plaintiff. 11 12 EMILIO T. GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR, 13 USCIS; U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND COMPLAINT FOR RELIEF UNDER IMMIGRATION SERVICES; GERARD THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE HEINAUER, DIRECTOR, USCIS 14 ACT NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER: MICHAEL CHERTOFF, SECRETARY, 15 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY; DEPARTMENT OF DHS Alien Number: 75-772-804 16 HOMELAND SECURITY; MICHAEL B. MUKASEY, U.S. 17 ATTORNEY GENERAL, 18 Defendants. 19

COMPLAINT FOR RELIEF UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

By and through his undersigned attorneys, Plaintiff, AMARJIT SINGH ("Mr. Singh"), as and for his complaint, alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Mr. Singh was born on October 4, 1970 in Amritsar, Punjab, India and is a native and citizen of India, who has been granted asylum in the United States. On August 10, 2004, the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board" or "BIA") found that Mr. Singh was credible, and

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that his "testimony describing the nature of the interrogations, the warnings, and the physical harm he suffered at the hands of Indian police established past persecution on account of his political opinion, actual or imputed." Exh. 1 (Board Decision) at 2. The Board held that Mr. Singh warranted "asylum in the exercise of discretion," and thus granted him asylum. Id. In proceedings before the Immigration Judge ("IJ"), on appeal before the Board, and in its Motion to Reconsider before the Board, the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") never argued that Mr. Singh's membership in, material support of, and solicitation for the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann (Amritsar) made him inadmissable pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3). Mr. Singh's membership and involvement in the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann (Amritsar) were the basis of his asylum claim and were known to the Board, who granted asylum, necessarily finding that Mr. Singh was not inadmissible.

- 2. USCIS regulations outline the procedures that must be followed for an asylee to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident. After one year of physical presence in the United States as an asylee, a person granted asylum may adjust his status "to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence." 8 C.F.R. § 1209.2(a). *See also* INA § 209, 8 U.S.C. § 1159. Thus, on or about August 25, 2005, Mr. Singh filed an application to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident (Form I-485) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS," formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service).¹
- 3. On May 11, 2005, the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-12, 119 Stat. 231, went into effect, and amended the definition of an undesignated "terrorist organization" to include "a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in, or has a subgroup which engages in, the activities described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause

¹ Pursuant to the *Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan*, *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002), 6 U.S.C. §§ 101-557, as of March 1, 2003, the INS was abolished and its functions were transferred to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") within the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS").

(iv)." 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) (emphasis added).²

4. In a letter dated January 14, 2008, USCIS denied Mr. Singh's Form I-485, on the grounds that his membership in, material support of, and solicitation for the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) make him inadmissable pursuant to sections 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(I) and (VI) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA" or "Act"), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)(I) and (VI).³ Exh. 2 (*Decision on Application for Status as Permanent Resident*) at 4. USCIS noted that in his asylum application, asylum interview, and adjustment of status application, Mr. Singh declared his membership and participation in the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar). *Id.* at 3. In concluding that the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party is an undesignated terrorist organization pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) and finding Mr. Singh inadmissible because of his participation in that organization, DHS contended:

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III)], defines a terrorist organization as an organization that is a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in or has a subgroup which engages in, the activities described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (iv).

Due to its subgroups, AISSF [All India Sikh Students' Federation] and ISYF [The International Sikh Youth Federation], the Akali Dal meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III)]. The violent activities of the AISSF and the ISYF match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)] and 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)].

Due to the activities of Akali Dal it meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III)]. The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)] and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)]. Thus, you are inadmissable under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(VI)

² Prior to the passage of the Real ID Act of 2005, and when Mr. Singh was granted asylum in 2004, an undesignated "terrorist group" was defined as, "a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in the activities described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of clause (iv)." 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) (2004).

³On January 15, 2008, more than two years after Mr. Singh filed his I-485, Mr. Singh filed a Complaint for a Writ of Mandamus and Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, asking that this Court compel the completion of Mr. Singh's criminal background checks and order USCIS to immediately adjudicate his Form I-485. Since USCIS finally adjudicated Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status, the Complaint that Mr. Singh filed with this Court on January 15, 2008 has been rendered moot and has been voluntarily dismissed.

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[8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(I)(VI)] based on your membership in the Akali Dal.

Due to the activities of Akali Dal [it] meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III)]. The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)] and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)]. Because your act(s) of material support fo the Akali Dal was voluntary, you are inadmissable under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(I) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)(I)].

Due to the activities of Akali Dal [it] meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III)]. The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)] and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)]. The solicitation that you did on behalf of this organization makes you inadmissable under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(I) [8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)(I)].

Accordingly, your application must be and hereby is denied.

The regulations do not provide for an appeal to this decision. *Id.* at 4.

5. Because DHS's decision denying Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status was arbitrary, capricious, wholly unsupported by substantial evidence, and otherwise not in accordance with law, it must be set aside pursuant to Administrative Procedure Act § 701, et seq.

JURISDICTION

6. Jurisdiction over the subject matter of this civil action is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as a civil action arising under the Constitution, 4 laws, or treaties of the United States; 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, as a civil action seeking, in addition to other remedies, a declaratory judgment; and 5 U.S.C. § 702, as a challenge to agency action under the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA").

VENUE

7. Venue is properly in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(e)(2) and (e)(3), because a substantial part of the events giving rise to this claim occurred in this district, Mr. Singh resides in this district, and no real property is involved in this action.

⁴ The Due Process Clause and Article III of the Constitution also require that some judicial forum remain available for Mr. Singh to challenge the denial of his application for adjustment of status.

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STANDING

8. The APA affords a right of review to a person who is "adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action." 5 U.S.C. § 702. Defendants' action resulted in the denial of Plaintiff's application, with no right of appeal. Plaintiff thus falls within the APA's standing provisions. See Legal Assistance for Vietnamese Asylum Seekers v. Dep't of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, 45 F.3d 469, 471-72 (D.C. Cir. 1995), reh'g denied, 74 F.3d 1308 (D.C. Cir.), vacated on other grounds, 117 S. Ct. 378 (1996); see also, Abourezk v. Reagan, 785 F.2d 1043, 1050-51 (D.C. Cir. 1986).

PLAINTIFF

9. Amarjit Singh is a native and citizen of India who currently resides at 570 Firenza Street, Livermore, California. Mr. Singh was granted asylum on August 10, 2004 by the Board. After having been granted asylum, Mr. Singh applied to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1159(b). On January 14, 2008, however, DHS denied Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status.

DEFENDANTS

- 10. Emilio T. Gonzalez'is the Director of the USCIS and, as such, has been delegated the authority to direct the administration of the USCIS, and to enforce the INA and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of non-citizens. Defendant Gonzalez is sued herein in his official capacity.
- 11. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is the federal agency within DHS that is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the INA and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of non-citizens.
- 12. Gerard Heinauer is the Director of the USCIS Nebraska Service Center, the office within USCIS that issued the denial of Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status, and is sued in his official capacity.
- 13. Michael Chertoff is the Secretary of DHS, the executive department which contains the USCIS, and is sued herein in his official capacity. Defendant Chertoff is charged with the administration and enforcement of the INA pursuant to INA § 103(a), 8 U.S.C. §

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- 14. The Department of Homeland Security is the federal agency encompassing the USCIS, which is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the INA and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of non-citizens.
- 15. Michael B. Mukasey is sued in his official capacity as the U.S. Attorney General. In that capacity, he is charged with supervising and directing the administration and operation of the Department of Justice, including the FBI.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Denial of Mr. Singh's Application for Adjustment of Status) (Violation of the Federal Regulations)

- 16. Plaintiff repeats, alleges, and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 17. In denying Mr. Singh's application to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1159(b) and providing no means to respond to the designation of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party as an "undesignated terrorist organization" under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(vi)(III), DHS violated 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16).
- 18. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16), "an applicant or petitioner shall be permitted to inspect the record of proceeding which constitutes the basis for the decision, except as provided in the following paragraphs." The regulations then explain:

If the decision will be adverse to the applicant or petitioner and is based on derogatory information considered by the Service and of which the applicant or petitioner is unaware, he/she shall be advised of this fact and offered an opportunity to rebut the information and present information in his/her own behalf before the decision is rendered, except as provided in paragraphs (b)(16)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section.

⁵ 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(ii) states that "[a] determination of statutory eligibility shall be based only on information contained in the record of proceeding which is disclosed to the applicant or petitioner, except as provided in paragraph (b)(16)(iv) of this section."

⁶ 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(iii) states that "[w]here an application may be granted or denied in the exercise of discretion, the decision to exercise discretion favorably or unfavorably may be based in whole or in part on classified information not contained in the record and not made available to the applicant, provided the regional commissioner has determined that such information is relevant and is classified under Executive Order No. 12356 (47 FR 14874; April 6, 1982) as requiring protection

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Any explanation, rebuttal, or information presented by or in behalf of the applicant or petitioner shall be included in the record of proceeding.

8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(i).

- 19. In this case, DHS has never provided Mr. Singh with an opportunity to "inspect the record of proceeding which constitute[d] the basis for the decision." 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16). Moreover, DHS did not provide Mr. Singh with an opportunity "to rebut the information" that the Akali Dal Mann was an "undesignated terrorist organization," nor did DHS provide Mr. Singh with an opportunity to "present information in his/her own behalf before the decision [was] rendered." 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(i). Rather, DHS issued a letter denying his application to adjust to permanent resident status, and indicated that there was no appeal of this decision. Exh. 2 (Decision on Application for Status as Permanent Resident).
- 20. Thus, Defendants' denial of Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status is in clear violation of 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16). Mr. Singh must be provided with an opportunity to inspect the record of proceeding and present information to USCIS before they render a final decision on his adjustment of status of application. Defendants are, quite simply, failing to comply with their regulatory duties.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Denial of Mr. Singh's Application for Adjustment of Status) (Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act)

21. Plaintiff repeats, alleges, and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 20 above as though

from unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national security."

An applicant or petitioner shall not be provided any information contained in the record or outside the record which is 12356 (47 FR 14874; April 6, 1982) as requiring protection from unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national security, unless the classifying authority has agreed in writing to such disclosure. Whenever he/she believes he/she can do so consistently with safeguarding both the information and its source, the regional commissioner should direct that the applicant or petitioner be given notice of the general nature of the information and an opportunity to offer opposing evidence. The regional commissioner's authorization to use such classified information shall be made a part of the record. A decision based in whole or in part on such classified information shall state that the information is material to the decision.

⁷ 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(iv) states:

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fully set forth herein.

22. In denying Mr. Singh's application to adjust his status to that of a lawful permanent resident pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1159(b), DHS committed several errors of law.

By Denying Mr. Singh's Application for Adjustment of Status and Providing No Means To Appeal or Respond to the Classification of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party as an "Undesignated Terrorist Organization" Under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(vi)(III), DHS Violated the APA.

By denying Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status, without providing 23. any opportunity to respond to the alleged grounds of inadmissibility, which hinge on the classification of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party as an undesignated "terrorist organization" under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(vi)(III), Defendants have acted arbitrarily, capriciously, and not in accordance with the law.

In the Alternative, DHS's Designation of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party as an "Undesignated Terrorist Organization" Under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(vi)(III) Is Not Supported by Substantial Evidence in Violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706.

- 24. A reviewing court reviews an agency's reasoning to determine whether it is "arbitrary" or "capricious," by determining whether it is supported by "substantial evidence." Dickinson v. Zurko, 527 U.S. 150, 157-158 (1999). An administrative action is arbitrary and capricious, and therefore in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, if the action is not supported by evidence or is lacking a rational basis. Hong Kong T.V. Video Program, Inc. v. Ilchert, 685 F. Supp. 712, 716-717 (N.D. Cal. 1988). In reviewing the claim that an agency acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner, courts must ensure that the agency has examined the relevant data and articulated a satisfactory explanation for its action, including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made. aaiPharma Inc. v. Thompson, 296 F.3d 227 (4th Cir. 2002), cert. denied, 538 U.S. 923 (2003).
- 25. Substantial evidence does not support DHS's conclusion that Shiromani Akali Dal Mann Party is an "undesignated terrorist organization" under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(vi)(III). In concluding that "[d]ue to the activities of Akali Dal, it meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization," DHS cited no activities of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann (Amritsar), the organization to which Mr. Singh belongs. Exh. 2 (Decision on Application for Status as Permanent Resident) at 4. Instead, DHS discussed only the activities of the ISYF,

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AISSF, and other unrelated organizations. Id. at 3-4. To establish that ISYF and AISSF are "subgroups" of the Shiromani Akali Dal Mann (Amritsar), DHS cited only to a single report, "a 1992 Department of State background information report on terrorist groups (found on the www.fas.org site)," reporting that:

Sikh terrorism is sponsored by a number of Indian and expatriate Sikh groups who want to carve out an independent Sikh state called Khalistan ("Land of the Pure" from Indian territory. Sikh violence outside India, which surged following the Indian Army's 1984 assault on the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, has decreased but remains high. Groups that have carried out acts of terrorism include the Dashmesh or 10th Regiment (active in India, Germany, and Canada); Dal Khalsa; Babbar Khalsa (India, Western Europe, Canada); and the All-India Sikh Students Federation (militant wing of the main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, now splintered).

Id. at 3 (emphasis added). DHS's conclusion that Shiromani Akali Dal Mann (Amritsar) is an "undesignated terrorist organization" rests on a misreading of the evidence of record and is arbitrary, capricious, and unsupported by substantial evidence.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (Denial of Mr. Singh's Application for Adjustment of Status) (Violation of Fifth Amendment Procedural Due Process)

- 26. Plaintiff repeats, alleges, and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 27. The Due Process Clause extends to aliens residing in the United States. It protects even aliens living here unlawfully:

There are literally millions of aliens within the jurisdiction of the United States. The Fifth Amendment, as well as the Fourteenth Amendment, protects every one of these persons from deprivations of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Even one whose presence in this country is unlawful, involuntary, or transitory is entitled to that constitutional protection.

Mathews v. Diaz, 426 U.S. 67, 77 (1976). The Due Process test of Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319 (1975), which involves a balancing of equities, applies here. What process is due involves an evaluation of "the interest at stake for the individual, the risk of erroneous deprivation of the interest through the procedures used as well as the probably value of additional, or different procedural safeguards, and the interest of the government in using the current procedures." Id. at 334-35.

28. In this case, Mr. Singh, who has been granted asylee status, has a substantial individual interest in becoming a lawful permanent resident. Lawful permanent resident status confers many advantages over asylee status. Lawful permanent residents have the privilege of Complaint for Relief Under the APA

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- residing and working permanently in the United States, INA § 101(a)(20), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20), they may travel outside the United States freely and generally are readmitted to the United States automatically, INA § 101(a)(13)(C), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(C), and they may petition to immigrate close family members, INA §§ 201 and 203, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1151 and 1153. After five years of status as a lawful permanent resident, an individual may apply to naturalize his status to that of a U.S. citizen. INA § 316(a), 8 U.S.C. § 1427(a). Because lawful permanent resident status is a prerequisite for naturalization, any delay in adjusting to lawful permanent resident status also delays eventual naturalization.
- 29. Furthermore, Mr. Singh merely requests an opportunity to inspect the record of proceeding and present information to DHS before they render a final decision on his adjustment of status of application. The additional review is an important safeguard, especially in light of the individual interests at stake.
- 30. Defendants' denial of Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status, with no opportunity to present rebuttal evidence, violates his right as an asylee to seek adjustment of status pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1159, without adequate justification and sufficient procedural safeguards, as guaranteed by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court:

- (1) Accept jurisdiction over this action;
- (2) Declare DHS's decision denying Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status to be arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise not in accordance with the law;
- (3) Declare that DHS's decision denying Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of status without an opportunity to respond to the information to be a violation of the Federal Regulations and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment;
- (4) Order DHS to provide Mr. Singh with an opportunity to inspect the record of proceeding and rebut any adverse information before rendering a final decision on his application for adjustment of status.

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- In the alternative, reverse the denial of Mr. Singh's application for adjustment of (5) status since DHS's decision is not supported by substantial evidence;
- Grant attorney's fees and costs of court under 28 U.S.C. § 2412, 28 U.S.C. § (6) 1920, Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(d), and other authority; and
- (7)Grant such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

February 20, 2008 DATED:

Case 3:08-cv-01021-MHP

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B. Jobe

Katherine M. Lewis LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT B. JOBE 550 Kearny St., Ste. 200 San Francisco, CA 94108 (415) 956-5513 (415) 840-0308

Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT

1

U.S. Department of Ju-e



Executive Office for Immigration Review

Board of Immigration Appeals Office of the Clerk

5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1300 Falls Church, Virginia 22041

Piciucco, Marirose 550 Kearny Street Ste 150 San Francisco, CA 94108-0000

Office of the District Counsel/SFR P.O. Box 26449 San Francisco, CA 94126-6449

Name: SINGH, AMARJIT

A75-772-804

Date of this notice: 08/10/2004

Enclosed is a copy of the Board's decision and order in the above-referenced case.

Frank Krider Acting Chief Clerk

Enclosure

Panel Members:

HOLMES, DAVID B. HURWITZ, GERALD S. MILLER, NEIL P. U.S. Department of Justice

Decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals Executive Office for Immigration Review

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

File: A75 772 804 - San Francisco

Date:

AUG 1 0 2004

In re: AMARJIT SINGH

IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Marirose Piciucco, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF DHS:

Stephen A. Johnston

Assistant Chief Counsel

CHARGE:

Notice: Sec.

237(a)(1)(B), I&N Act [8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(1)(B)] -

In the United States in violation of law

APPLICATION: Asylum and withholding of deportation

ORDER:

PER CURIAM. The respondent has appealed from the Immigration Judge's May 16, 2003, decision denying the respondent's request for asylum and withholding of removal under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Immigration Judge found the respondent, a 34-year-old native and citizen of India, did not provide credible evidence to support his claim that Indian police officers arrested, held him in custody, and beat him in 1998 and again in 1999 because he was an active member of the Shiromani Kali Dal Mann Party in India. In doing so, the Immigration Judge stated: "As the court cannot make findings of fact, its conclusion must be that respondent is not credible (I.J. at 36)." This finding is clearly erroneous under controlling case law in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the circuit in which this case arises. Specifically, the Ninth Circuit has held that an adverse credibility finding (1) "must be supported by specific, cogent reasons and (2) the reasons set forth must be substantial and must bear a legitimate nexus to the finding." See Akinmade v. INS, 196 F.3d 951, 954 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal quotations omitted). Minor inconsistencies identified in the decision and conclusions based on speculation, conjecture, or unsupported assumptions are insufficient to support an adverse credibility finding. See Salaam v. INS, 229 F.3d 1234 (9th Cir. 2000).

Here, the key events underlying the respondent's request for relief are the 1998 and the 1999 arrests that he described during his hearing testimony and also in his asylum application. No contrary evidence was introduced during the hearing and his testimony was consistent with his prior statements. Because the

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Immigration Judge did not identify any discrepancies or inconsistencies in the respondent's evidence on the key events in this case, we cannot affirm the Immigration Judge's adverse credibility finding under controlling case law. See Salaam v. INS, supra; Akinmade v. INS, supra.

We find that respondent's testimony describing the nature of the interrogations, the warnings, and the physical harm he suffered at the hands of Indian police established past persecution on account of his political opinion, actual or imputed. See Chanchavac v. INS, 207 F.3d 584 (9th Cir. 2000); Garrovillas v. INS, 156 F.3d 1010 (9th Cir. 1998); Singh v. Ilchert, 63 F.3d 1501 (9th Cir. 1995). The respondent's showing of past persecution triggers a rebuttable presumption that he has a well-founded fear of persecution should he return to India. See Del Carmen Molina v. INS, 170 F.3d 1247 (9th Cir. 1999); Garrovillas v. INS, 156 F.3d 1010 (9th Cir. 1998); 8 C.F.R. § 1208.13(b)(1)(i). We find that on the basis of the record before us, the presumption has not been rebutted. Our review of the record reveals that, on balance, the respondent warrants asylum in the exercise of discretion. Because the respondent's asylum application is approved, we need not address the issue of the respondent's eligibility for withholding of deportation or any of the other issues raised in the appeal. See Matter of D-V-, 21 I&N Dec. 77, 80 BIA 1993). Accordingly, we issue the following orders.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent's appeal is sustained.

FURTHER ORDER: The respondent is granted asylum pursuant to section 208 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1158.

FOR THE BOARD

EXHIBIT

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security P.O. Box 82521 Lincoln, NE 68501-2521



Refer To File No. LIN0527050474

JAN 1 4 2008

AMARJIT SINGH 570 FIRENZA ST LIVERMORE CA 94551

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Form: I485 APPLICATION TO ADJUST TO PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS

Beneficiary: SINGH, AMARJIT

Decision

This notice refers to the Form I-485. Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, you filed with this office on 09/23/2005. You are requesting an adjustment of status under Section 209 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (Title 8, United States Code, section 1159).

Section 209(b) and (c) of the INA state:

- (b) The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General, in the Secretary's or the Attorney General's discretion and under such regulations as the Secretary or the Attorney General may prescribe, may adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence the status of any alien granted asylum who-
 - (1) applies for such adjustment,
 - (2) has been physically present in the United States for at least one year after being granted asylum.
- (3) continues to be a refugee within the meaning of [INA] section 101(a)(42)(A) of this title or a spouse or child of such a refugee,
 - (4) is not firmly resettled in any foreign country, and
- (5) is admissible (except as otherwise provided under subsection (c) of this section) as an immigrant under this chapter at the time of examination for adjustment of such alien.

Matter of K-A-. 23 I & N Dec. 661. 666 (BIA 2004) (relief under section 209(b) of the Act is discretionary).

The INA section 209(c) waiver of inadmissibility is not available to aliens who are inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B) (terrorist activities).

Section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(VI) of the INA. as amended by the REAL ID Act of 2005. describes an alien who is inadmissible and states in pertinent part:

Any alien who... (VI) is a member of a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the alien can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the alien did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization... is inadmissible.

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) defines the term "terrorist organization," in part, to include an organization "that is a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in, or has a

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subgroup which engages in the activities described in sub clauses (I) through (VI) of clause (iv)."

Matter of K-A-, 23 I & N Dec. 661, 666 (BIA 2004) (relief under section 209(b) of the Act is discretionary).

The INA section 209(c) waiver of inadmissibility is not available to aliens who are inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B) (terrorist activities).

Section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) of the INA, as amended by the REAL ID Act of 2005, describes an alien who is inadmissible and states in pertinent part:

Any alien who ... (I) has engaged in a terrorist activity. .. is inadmissible.

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI) defines the term "engaged in terrorist activity." in part, to "commit an act that the actor knows, or reasonably should know, affords material support, including a safe house, transportation, communications, funds, transfer of funds or other material financial benefit, false documentation or identification, weapons (including chemical, biological, or radiological weapons), explosives or training -

- (aa) for the commission of a terrorist activity;
- (bb) to any individual who the actor know, or reasonably should know, has committed or plans to commit a terrorist activity:
- (cc) to a terrorist organization described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (vi), or to any member of such an organization; or
- (dd) to a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), or to any member of such an organization, unless the actor can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the actor did not know, and should not have reasonably known, that the organization was a terrorist organization."

Matter of K-A-, 23 1 & N Dec. 661. 666 (BIA 2004) (relief under section 209(b) of the Act is discretionary).

The INA section 209(c) waiver of inadmissibility is not available to aliens who are inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B) (terrorist activities). Section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) of the INA. as amended by the REAL ID Act of 2005, describes an alien who is inadmissible and states in pertinent part:

Any alien who...(I) has engaged in terrorist activity...is inadmissible.

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(IV) defines the term "engaged in terrorist activity," in part. to solicit funds or other things of value for -

- (aa) a terrorist activity;
- (bb) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or
- (cc) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the solicitor can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that he did not know, and should not have reasonably known, that the organization was a terrorist organization:

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(V) defines the term "engaged in terrorist activity," in part, to solicit any individual -

- (aa) to engage in conduct otherwise described in this subsection;
- (bb) for membership in a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi(II); or
- (cc) for membership in a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III) unless the solicitor can demonstrate clear and convincing evidence that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization.

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On the I-485 you filed on 09/23/05 you answer Part C3 as, "I am a member of Shromani Akali Dal (Amritsar)." You provided testimony at your asylum interview on 05/23/02 that you joined Akali Dal in December of 1998. You stated that you raised money for Akali Dal and transported people to rallies. On your I-589 asylum application you wrote that you joined Akali Dal on 12/27/1998 and that you encouraged the public and party workers to participate and make Akali Dal rallies successful.

In regards to the creation of AISSF as a subgroup, a USCIS RIC (Resource Information Center) report on the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) cites: "it was formed in the early 1940s by Sardar Swarup Singh, former president of the organization, to help bring educated Sikh youths into the Akali Dal, a predominantly Sikh political party in Punjab (Telford Nov 1992, IRBDC 1 Oct 1989), and to promote and propagate Sikhism amongst the college-going Sikh students (UK-COIS Apr 2006)."

The report further states that the Khalistani (Sikh separatist) movement gained momentum following the 1984 Sikh occupation of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India, and the subsequent Indian army attack ("Operation Blue Star") on the temple, in which hundreds of Sikhs, including charismatic Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, were killed. The AISSF is one of many Sikh groups that were transformed during this very volatile period in Indian history (DIS Sep 2000, TSS 13 Sep 2003. UK-COIS Apr 2006). The April 2006 report on India by the UK's Country of Origin Information Service cites April 1996 information from British officials working in India in stating that "[w]hile the AISSF sought a separate Sikh homeland, it did not fight for it until militancy erupted [in Punjab]...in 1981. From then onwards, a number of AISSF members joined the ranks of the militants" (UK-COIS Apr 2006). Likewise, a September 2003 SIKH SENTINEL article states: "...[T]he All India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF)...was a non-violent group until it split into multiple wings, some of which advocated violence" (TSS 17 Sep 2003). Dr. Chima found this depiction to be "generally correct in the sense that the AISSF never officially endorsed violence before 1984. Instead, it was a mass-based organization with probably over 100,000 members, mostly students, throughout Punjab. But, it was rumored to have a miniscule, but effective, 'armed wing' called the 'Deshmesh Regiment' [comprised] of only a few members to engage in selective political assassinations on behalf of the upper-most leadership of the AISSF" (Chima 28 Sep 2006).

According to a 1992 Department of State background information report on terrorist groups (found on the www.fas.org site), "Sikh terrorism is sponsored by a number of Indian and expatriate Sikh groups who want to carve out an independent Sikh state called Khalistan ("Land of the Pure") from Indian territory. Sikh violence outside India, which surged following the Indian Army's 1984 assault on the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, has decreased but remains high. Groups that have carried out acts of terrorism include the Dashmesh or 10th Regiment (active in India. Germany, and Canada); Dal Khalsa; Babbar Khalsa (India, Western Europe. Canada); and the All-India Sikh Students Federation (militant wing of the main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, now splintered)."

The DoS report goes on to state: "Regular and bloody attacks mounted frequently in India against Hindus and against Indian officials and facilities, particularly in Punjab; they include assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings. Sikh extremists probably bombed the Air India jet downed over the Irish Sea in June 1985, killing 329 passengers and crew. On the same day, a bomb planted by Sikhs on an Air India flight from Vancouver exploded in Tokyo's Narita airport, killing two Japanese baggage handlers. In 1991, Sikh terrorists attempted to assassinate the Indian Ambassador in Romania--once India's senior police officer in Punjab (1986-89)--and kidnapped and held the Romanian Charge in New Delhi for seven weeks. Sikh attacks within India, ranging from kidnappings and bombings to assassinations, continue at a high level. Indian security forces captured or killed many Sikh leaders in 1992, however, and total civilian deaths in Punjab have dropped as compared to 1991, when more than 3,300 civilians died. There was a marked drop in the number of killings during the closing months of 1992."

Quoting the US CIS report again. "The International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), which was founded as the international branch of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) (PSEPC 17 Nov 2004), is

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aggressive and effective in its international fund raising activities (Global Security 27 Apr 2005, Satp.org undated). On June 27, 2002, the US Treasury Department added the ISYF to its listing of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (OFAC 27 Jun 2002), and on April 29, 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell, in consultation with the Attorney General, placed the ISYF on the Terrorist Exclusion List (USDOS 29 Dec 2004)."

A Canadian government source at http://www.ps-sp.gc.ca/prg/ns/le/cle-en.asp states: "The International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) was founded in 1984 in the United Kingdom as an international branch of the All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) with centers in several countries, including Canada. The ISYF is a Sikh organization whose aim is to promote Sikh philosophy and the establishment of an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan. In the pursuit of their goal, the ISYF does not hesitate to resort to violence. Since 1984, its members have been engaged in terrorist attacks, assassinations and bombings mostly against Indian political figures, but also against moderate members of the Sikh community opposed to their extremist ways. The ISYF collaborates and/or associates with a number of Sikh terrorist organizations, notably Babbar Khalsa (BK), the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF)."

The INA, at section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III), defines a terrorist organization as an organization that is a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in. or has a subgroup which engages in, the activities described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (iv).

Due to its subgroups, AISSF and ISYF, the Akali Dal meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III). The violent activities of the AISSF and the ISYF match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) and 212(a)(3)(B)(iv).

Due to the activities of Akali Dal it meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III). The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii). Thus, you are inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(VI) based on your membership in the Akali Dal.

Due to the activities of Akali Dal meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III). The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii). Because your act(s) of material support of the Akali Dal was voluntary. you are inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(I).

Due to the activities of Akali Dal meets the current definition of an undesignated terrorist organization at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III). The violent activities of Akali Dal match those described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv) and 212(a)(3)(B)(iii). The solicitation that you did on behalf of this organization makes you inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(i)(I).

Accordingly, your application must be and hereby is denied.

The regulations do not provide for an appeal to this decision.

Genard Hunauer

Sincerely.

F. Gerard Heinauer

Director

NSC/COG EX516